

EPA-PNL-23

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Unlimited" <sbrown@tu.org>
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To Phil North
cc
bcc
Subject Bristol Bay in the News: Watershed Assessment Edition, May
25, 2012

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The EPA's May 18 release of its draft Watershed Assessment for Bristol Bay was met with broad media interest across the country, including AP, *Reuters*, *The Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, *Bloomberg*, *BusinessWeek*, Huffington Post, MSNBC.com and others. Most of the coverage included statistics on the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery, which produces an average of 37 million fish a year, supports 14,000 jobs and supplies nearly half the wild sockeye in the world. And it detailed the potentially "devastating" effects of large-scale mining on the watershed.

An AP story that made the national wire, quoted EPA Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran saying the assessment looks at potential mining impacts in a region that produces nearly half the global sockeye salmon supply. The AP's Becky Bohrer writes: "Even if a large mine operated smoothly, with no engineering failures and no human-caused disasters, the EPA said in its analysis that miles of salmon rivers and streams could be lost or blocked, as could thousands of acres of wetlands that are vital to juvenile salmon."

The Washington Post story says EPA had not decided whether to take further action that would block the mine. It shared an excerpt of the assessment on the possibilities of leaks, accidents and failures: "Though precise estimates of the probabilities of failure occurrence cannot be made, evidence from the long-term operation of similar large mines suggests that, over the life span of a large mine, at least one or more accidents or failures could occur, potentially resulting in immediate, severe impacts on salmon and detrimental, long-term impacts on salmon habitat."

An *LA Times* piece emphasized the escalating political battle over Bristol Bay in the wake of the assessment. It also quoted Sen. Maria Cantwell, who said: "The watershed assessment released today is an important step towards protecting wild Bristol Bay salmon and the thousands of Washington state jobs that rely on them."

People around the country are responding to the Watershed Assessment by submitting public comments and letters to the editor, such as this one in Aspen, Colo. In addition, a strong spate of op-eds in Alaska, including Alaska State Senate President Gary Stevens in the *Anchorage Daily News* ; Bob Waldrop in the *Alaska Dispatch* ; and two owners of sport fishing operations in the *Peninsula Clarion*; demonstrate strong regional and state support for the assessment.

In the meantime, Pebble CEO John Shively called the EPA's 15-month study, "rushed" and "inadequate," in a statement and Pebble partner Northern Dynasty's share price took a dive.

Below, please see a selection of assessment-related stories.

Shoren Brown

Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

For more information, visit www.savebristolbay.org

Mine could hurt Alaska's fish, EPA warns

Becky Bohrer

Anchorage Daily News, KSRO, Huffington Post, Seattle PI, My FOX DC, and KTVN

The risk of a catastrophic failure from a big gold and copper mine near the spawning grounds for Bristol Bay's famed salmon fisheries grows 100-fold if the project is built and run under standard engineering practices rather than as a state-of-the-art operation...

[Click here to read more](#)

EPA warns major mining would pose a threat to Alaska salmon

Juliet Eilperin

The Washington Post and Seattle Times

Large-scale mining operations in Alaska's Bristol Bay will harm habitat for wild salmon, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded in a draft assessment Friday...

[Click here to read more](#)

Pebble mine could devastate Alaska rivers, streams, EPA says

Kim Murphy

LA Times, Kansas City Star, and Spokesman-Review

The Environmental Protection Agency is warning that plans for a massive mine in the hills above Bristol Bay in Alaska — home of the biggest sockeye salmon fishery in the world — could have devastating consequences for rivers and streams...[Click here to](#)

[read more](#)

EPA Warns of Risks to Salmon From Mining in Alaska's Bristol Bay

Mark Drajem

Bloomberg BusinessWeek and Bloomberg News

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said large-scale salmon habitats may be harmed by mining near Bristol Bay, Alaska, where Anglo American Plc (AAL) is working with a partner to study developing a new copper mine...[Click here to read more](#)

Protect Bristol Bay

Hutch Hutchinson, Basalt CO

The Aspen Times

As an avid sport fisherman who guided fishing clients in Bristol Bay, Alaska, for 15 years, I'm heartened that the Environmental Protection Agency has come out with a draft watershed assessment...[Click here to read more](#)

Northern Dynasty comments on the EPA's draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment report

Northern Dynasty Release

Marketwatch

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. comments on the draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment report, calling the initiative to study potential effects of mineral development in a vast region of southwest Alaska 'rushed and inadequate.'...[Click here to read more](#)

Healthy fish crucial to Bristol bay

Bud Hudson and Sonny Petersen

Peninsula Clarion

As many Alaskans know, there are some unbeatable places to work, hunt and fish throughout this state -- and in many cases not far from our back porch...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA's Bristol Bay assessment was rushed, inadequate

John Shively

Alaska Dispatch

As long-time proponents of responsible resource development in Alaska, we have significant concerns regarding the EPA's approach to the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment...[Click here to read more](#)

Assessing Pebble: EPA's document doesn't justify ending the process

Editorial

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

It's not surprising that the Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that development of the Pebble mine in Southwest Alaska could harm the salmon fishery to some extent. No one disputes the possibility...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA report outlines potential Pebble mine risks

Yereth Rosen

Reuters, London South East, Chicago Tribune, Yahoo News, and Creamer Media's Mining Weekly

Large stretches of salmon-spawning streams and thousands of acres of wetlands would be wiped out if a large-scale mining project were to be built in southwestern Alaska's copper-rich Bristol Bay region...[Click here to read more](#)

Sportsmen Support EPA's Endeavour to Protect Bristol Bay Fishery and Natural Resources

Nick Gilbert

AZO Clean Tech

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided a comprehensive assessment of Bristol Bay in Alaska, which has won the support of environmentalists, conservation activists, sportsmen, hunters, anglers and people belonging to the fishing industry...

[Click here to read more](#)

Has the EPA overstepped its bounds with Pebble Project assessment?

Dorothy Dosich

Mineweb

In issuing a watershed assessment outlining potential Pebble mine risks to fisheries, wildlife and wetlands in the Bristol Bay region of southwestern Alaska-before the Pebble Partnership has even applied for project permits--did the U.S. EPA overstep its authority? [Click here to read more](#)

EPA Report on Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine

Bill Caldwell

I think Mining

The draft report by the EPA on potential mining impacts on Bristol Bay by the Pebble Mine or any of the other seven potential mines in that part of Alaska is published...

[Click here to read more](#)

Pebble Mine...officially a bad idea

Chris Hunt

Trout Unlimited

The Environmental Protection Agency's watershed assessment for Bristol Bay, Alaska--released this week--officially declares that the proposed Pebble Mine would be harmful to the world's most important salmon fishery...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA: Salmon run at risk from potential mine in Bristol Bay

Lindsay Chamberlain

KING 5

An EPA assessment of a hypothetical large-scale mine on the shores of Bristol Bay, Alaska concluded there is potential to hurt future salmon runs and habitats...[Click here to read more](#)

Sen. Murkowski Comment on EPA Watershed Study

Sen. Murkowski

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, today commented on the Environmental Protection Agency's watershed assessment of Alaska's Bristol Bay area, and her communication with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson on the issue...[Click here to read more](#)

Sen. Begich statement on EPA Watershed Study

Sen. Begich

Sen. Mark Begich today released the below statement following the release of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientific study on the potential impact of large-scale mining in Bristol Bay watershed, home to the largest wild sockeye salmon...[Click here to read more](#)

Mining poses threat to Alaskan salmon fishery – EPA

Manuel Quinones

Greenwire

U.S. EPA warned today that a sprawling mine proposed for southwestern Alaska would likely pose a threat to waterways and a thriving salmon fishery...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA on Bristol Bay: Mining Probably Bad for Salmon

Tim Sohn

Outside

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released a draft of its long-awaited study of the potential effects of large-scale mining on Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed and its famed salmon run...[Click here to read more](#)

Bristol Bay salmon: EPA lists what a big mine could do

Joel Connelly

SeattlePI.com

As Seattle welcomed the spring's first shipment of Copper River salmon flown in from up north, a draft federal report warned of potential catastrophic impacts...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA offers no verdict on Alaska's Pebble mine, but lays out some risks

Alaska Dispatch

While offering no verdict about whether the project should move forward, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday released a draft watershed assessment that described the damage that could befall some of the world's premier salmon fisheries...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA's Pebble watershed assessment validates Bristol Bay fears

Bob Waldrop

Alaska Dispatch

People who live or work in Bristol Bay remember the day they heard about the proposed Pebble Mine. We remember where we were, who we were with, maybe even what we ate that day...[Click here to read more](#)

Huge Alaska mine could impact premier salmon fishery, EPA says

Miguel Llanos

MSNBC

Rivers and streams in the world's premier wild salmon fishery would be greatly degraded for decades should a vast gold and copper mine be built and then see a failure in the dam holding back its mine waste...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA Releases Bristol Bay Assessment

Dave Bendinger, KDLG

Alaska Public Radio

The Environmental Protection Agency has released a draft document intended to inform their decision making process in regards to large mining projects in the Bristol Bay region...[Click here to listen](#)

Montana Sportsmen Support EPA Assessment of Bristol Bay, Alaska, Watershed

Ted Williams

Fly Rod + Reel

Responding to the release of the Environmental Protection Agency's assessment of the Bristol Bay, Alaska, watershed, leaders of Montana's recreational angling community urged the federal government to take action to safeguard the bay's irreplaceable fisheries...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA says large scale mine would harm Bristol Bay salmon

Margaret Bauman

The Cordova Times

A draft watershed assessment released today (May18) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says failure of facilities at a proposed large-scale mining operation in Bristol Bay would destroy salmon habitat, impacting wildlife and human welfare...

[Click here to read more](#)

Sportsmen applaud EPA's assessment of Bristol Bay, Alaska

Trout Unlimited

Sacramento Bee

Hunting and fishing groups across the country voiced support for the Environmental Protection Agency's comprehensive, scientific assessment of Bristol Bay...[Click here to read more](#)

EPA: Potential 'Adverse Impacts' on Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery with Pebble Mine; Comment Period on Draft Study Open Into July

Andy Walgamott

Northwest Sportsman

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today released for public comment a draft scientific study of the Bristol Bay watershed and its natural resources. EPA's report responds to growing interest in large-scale mining...[Click here to read more](#)

Mining Pebble fails Hammond's Criteria

Greg Samuelsen and Sen. Gary Stevens

Anchorage Daily News

As Alaskans we take great responsibility in balancing the management of our natural resources with the protection of our land and waters...[Click here to read more](#)

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